



THE  
DEMON'S  
HEART...





TURNED OUT  
TO BE A TOOL  
THE ALCHEMISTS  
MADE.

IS IT




SOMETHING  
THAT MAKES  
DEMONS?

NOT  
QUITE.

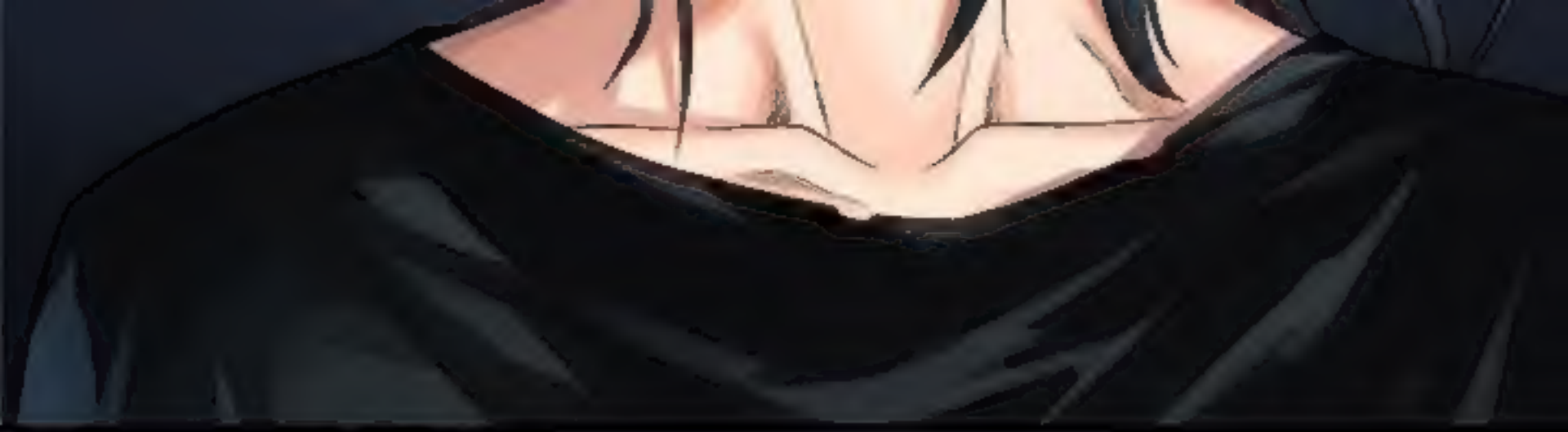
IT WAS...

SOMETHING  
THAT'S USED  
ON HUMANS.











THEN...




THEY MADE  
A HUMAN INTO  
A DEMON...?


A character with a beard and a crown-like headpiece is visible in the bottom right corner, looking upwards. The background is dark with many small, bright stars, suggesting a night sky or a celestial environment. A large, bright, oval-shaped light source is in the center-left, and a smaller one is partially visible in the bottom-left corner.

WE BARDS  
HAVE SONGS ABOUT  
THE KING'S EXPEDITION  
FORCES TOO.






KALTOVIA,  
LORD OF THE  
WALL, AND GRIA,  
HIS BLADE.

A dark, gnarled tree trunk, possibly a cypress or similar, stands against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The tree's bark is deeply textured and dark brown. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned on the right side of the image, containing text.

THE STORIES  
OF THEM BEING  
TEMPTED BY THE  
NORTH'S DEMONS  
AND BECOMING  
ONE WITH THEM  
ARE FAMOUS.

AND THEIR  
FRIEND AND ALLY,  
THE COURT WIZARD  
GODIN...



A character with long dark hair, wearing a dark, textured cloak, is shown from the chest up. They are holding onto a vertical pole or railing with their right hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise with warm yellow and orange hues. The character's face is partially visible, showing a serious expression.


HE WAS  
THOUGHT TO HAVE  
DISAPPEARED IN  
THE NORTH...

A manga-style illustration. In the center, a person with long, dark hair and a black tunic looks forward with a somber expression. To their right, a smaller character with brown hair and a light-colored coat with a dark collar looks on with a similar expression. The background is a blurred, warm-toned landscape. Two large speech bubbles are on the left. The top bubble contains the text "DON'T TELL ME...", and the bottom bubble contains the text "THEY BECAME DEMONS BECAUSE...".

DON'T  
TELL ME...

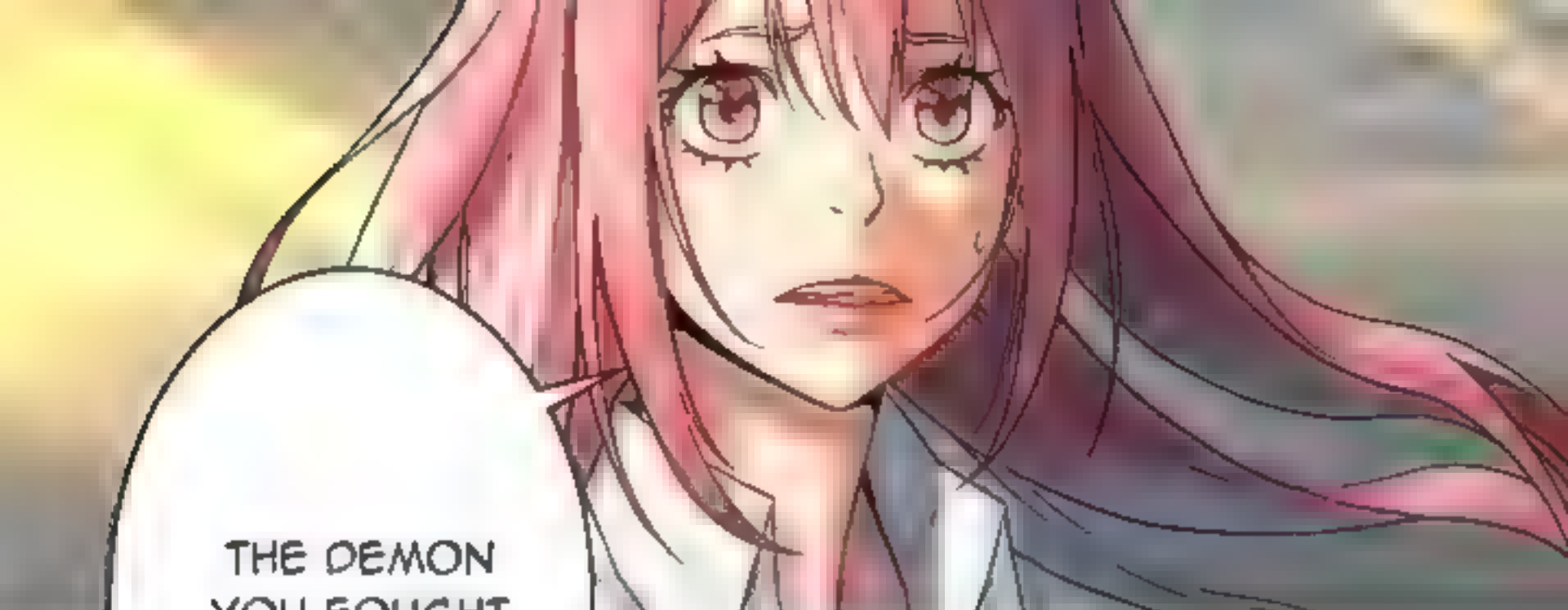
THEY  
BECAME  
DEMONS  
BECAUSE...





A comic book panel featuring a character with long, straight red hair seen from the back. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned to the right of the character's head. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, in the upper left corner, and some dark, silhouetted trees or structures in the distance. The overall color palette is muted, with a focus on the red of the hair and the white of the speech bubble.


YES. THE  
ALCHEMIST'S  
ASSOCIATION  
MAY HAVE BEEN  
BEHIND IT.



THE DEMON  
YOU FOUGHT  
LAST NIGHT...



IT SAYS...



THE WIZARD  
GODIN WAS USED...  
TO MAKE IT.




KALTOVIA  
OF THE DUSK...  
MY OLD FRIEND...




The image features a dark, almost black, background with a complex, organic texture. On the left side, there is a bright, white, irregularly shaped opening that resembles a hole or a tear in the dark surface. The edges of this opening are jagged and uneven. Inside this white space, the text "HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME ALREADY...?" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and vertically.

HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN  
ME ALREADY...?

A close-up of a hand with a pinkish-red skin tone pointing its index finger towards a dark, textured brick wall. A white, oval-shaped speech bubble with a black outline is positioned to the right of the hand, containing the text "THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...". The background is a dark, almost black, brick wall with some lighter, greyish-blue highlights on the bricks.


THERE'S  
NOTHING I  
CAN DO...



IN THIS  
WORLD THAT  
LACKS NATURE'S  
PROVIDENCE...




HE COULDN'T...

A character with long, dark, wavy hair and a white collar is shown from the chest up. The character's face is partially visible, looking downwards. The background is dark and indistinct.

DO ANYTHING  
IN THIS MANALESS  
WORLD...

THE ONLY  
THING HE COULD  
DO... WAS WAIT  
FOR KALTOVIA'S  
HELP.






IT DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE THAT  
THE EXPEDITION

THE ENTIRE  
FORCE THAT HAD  
BEEN FIGHTING THE  
DEMONS FOR  
DECADES...

WOULD  
SUDDENLY  
SWITCH  
SIDES.



A dark, atmospheric illustration of a snowy landscape. In the background, a bridge with a railing spans across the scene. Bare trees stand against a dark, cloudy sky. The ground is covered in snow, with some dark patches visible. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

IT LOOKS LIKE  
THE ALCHEMIST'S  
ASSOCIATION CAUSED  
GODIN'S DISAPPEARANCE  
AT THE VERY LEAST.

LORD  
RONIAN  
SAID HE WAS  
A STUDENT OF  
THE COURT  
WIZARD...



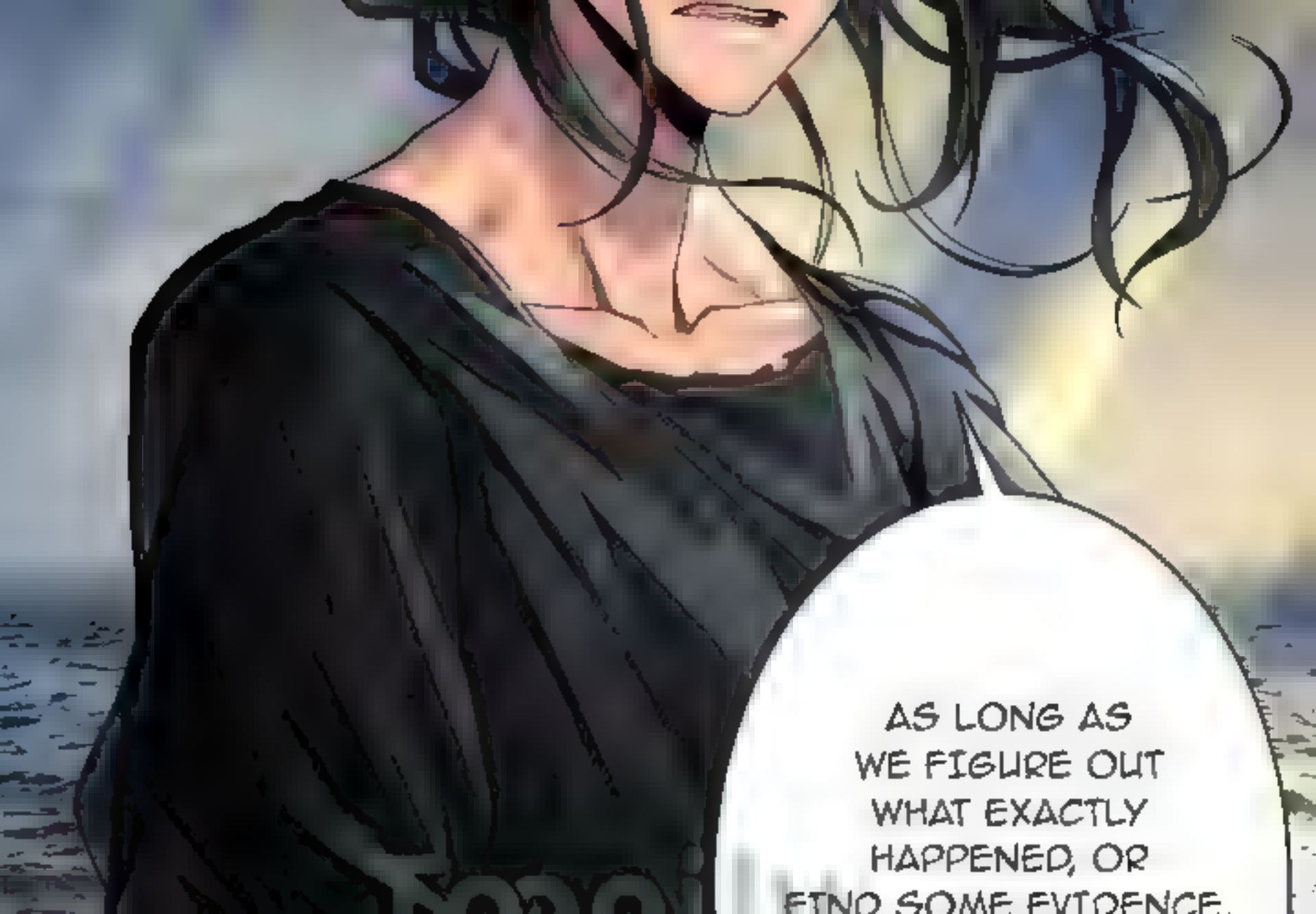


MAYBE  
HE WENT TO  
THE NORTH TO  
FIND HIS MISSING  
TEACHER...



WE NEED  
TO INVESTIGATE  
WHAT HAPPENED  
IN THE NORTH.



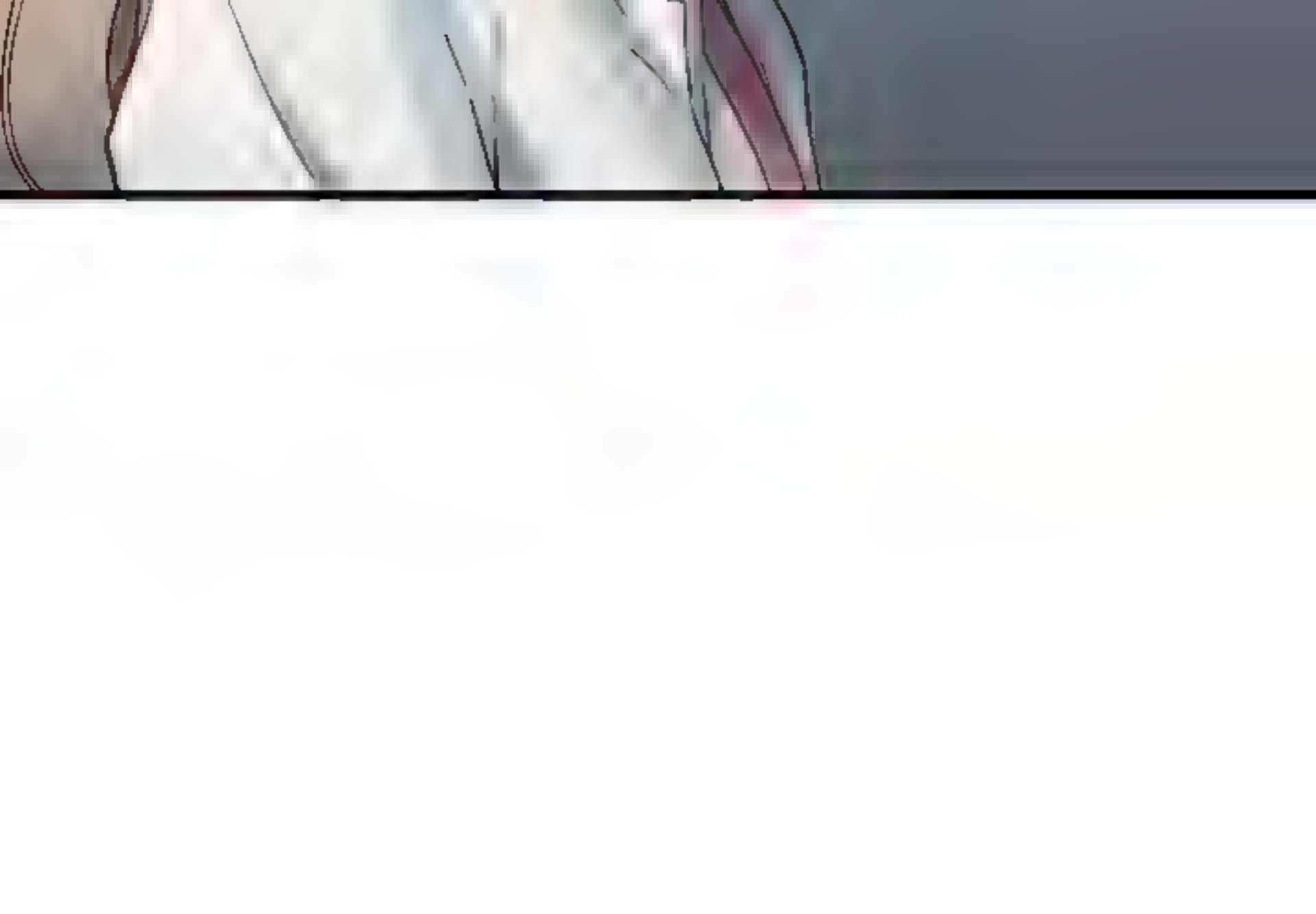


AS LONG AS  
WE FIGURE OUT  
WHAT EXACTLY  
HAPPENED, OR  
FIND SOME EVIDENCE.

...AND SOME DIFFERENCE,  
EVEN THE NOBLES  
WON'T BE ABLE TO  
DO ANYTHING.

THANKS  
FOR THE INFO,  
LUA.







# HER SUMMON







WOOSH





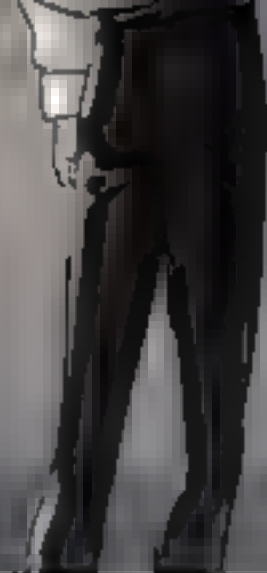
COUNTLESS  
PEOPLE WOULD  
LISTEN TO ME...

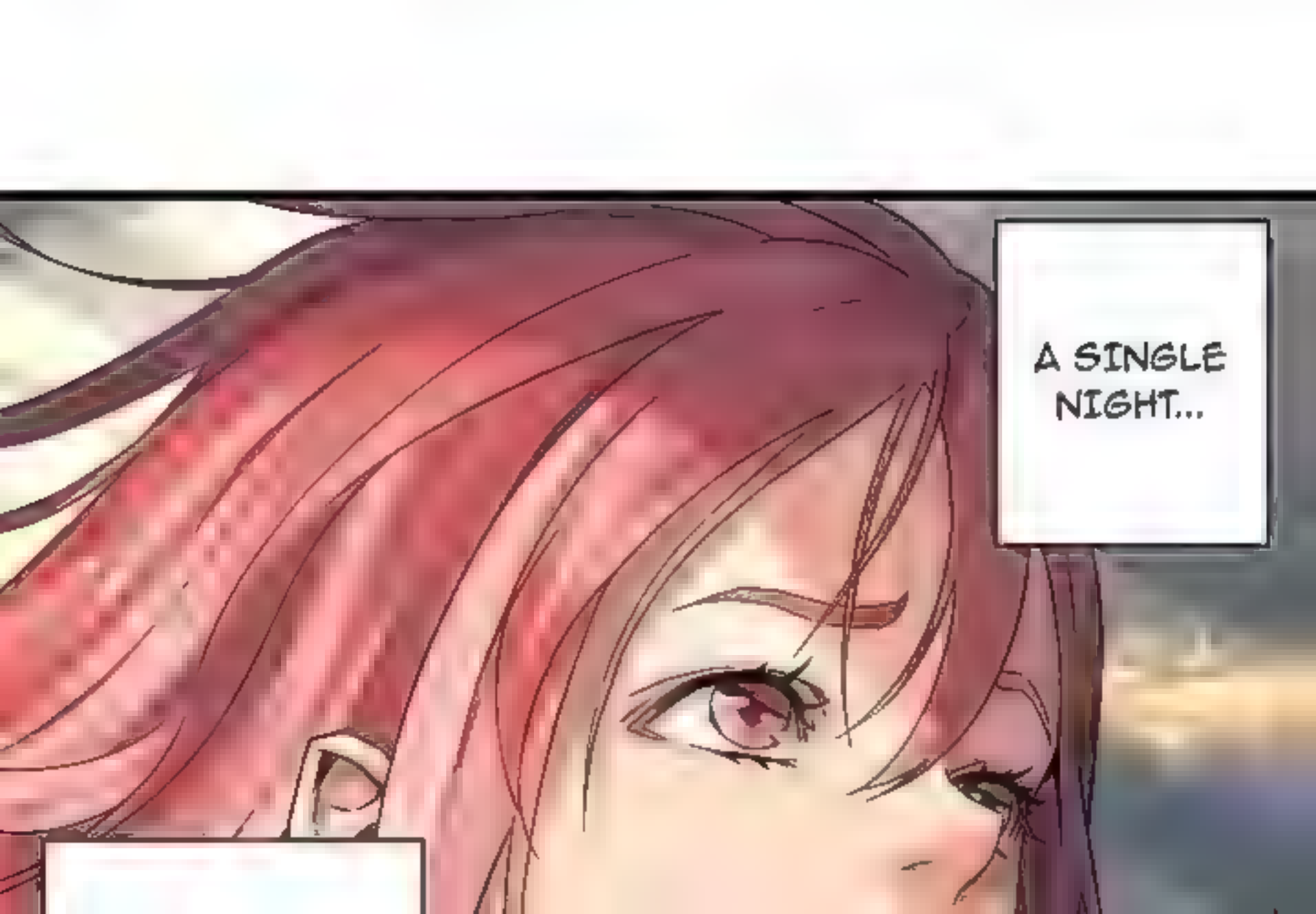
AND COUNTLESS  
VOICES WOULD BE  
BY MY SIDE, BEFORE  
DISAPPEARING  
AGAIN.



A BARD'S LIFE  
WHICH IS FULL  
OF MEETINGS  
AS SHORT AS A  
SINGLE SONG...

WAS ENOUGH  
FOR ME TO  
GET BY.





A SINGLE  
NIGHT...

WILL I  
EVER LIVE  
ANOTHER NIGHT  
AS WILD AS  
THIS ONE...



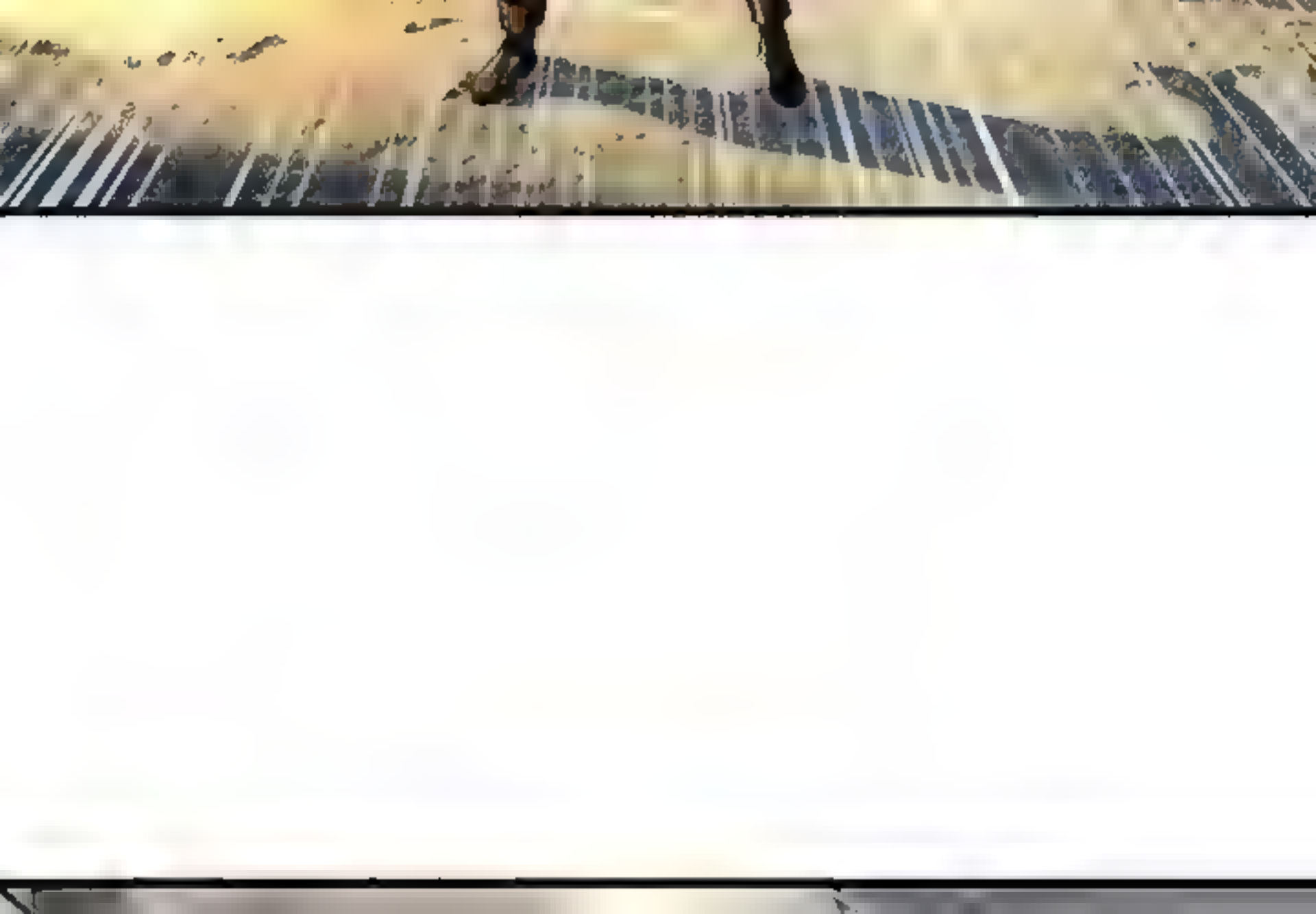





LORD SPIRIT!!











I SWEAR  
I'LL BECOME A  
GREAT BARD!

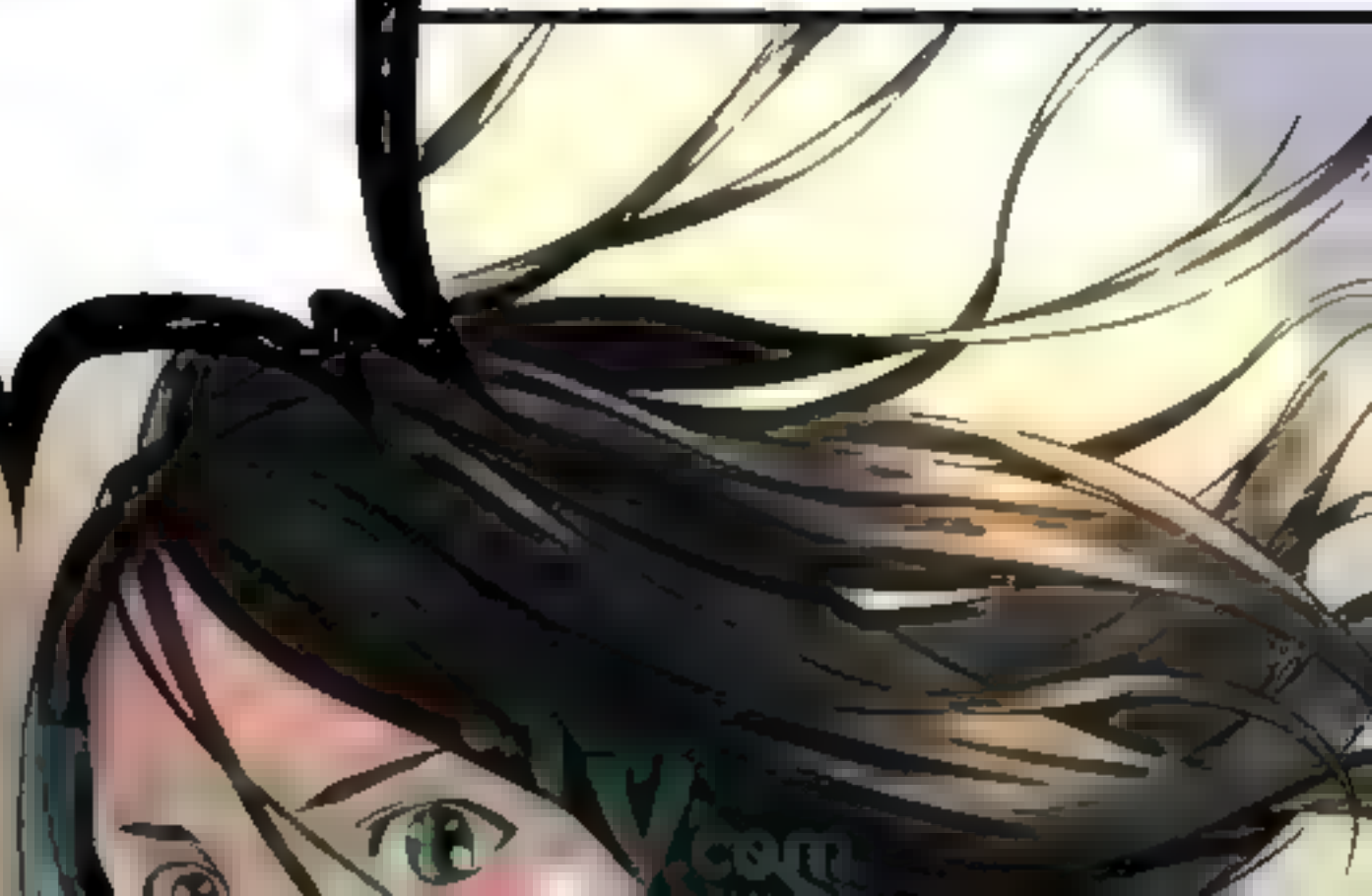




AND THEN...



I'LL SING  
A SONG ABOUT  
YOU!!





SO THAT

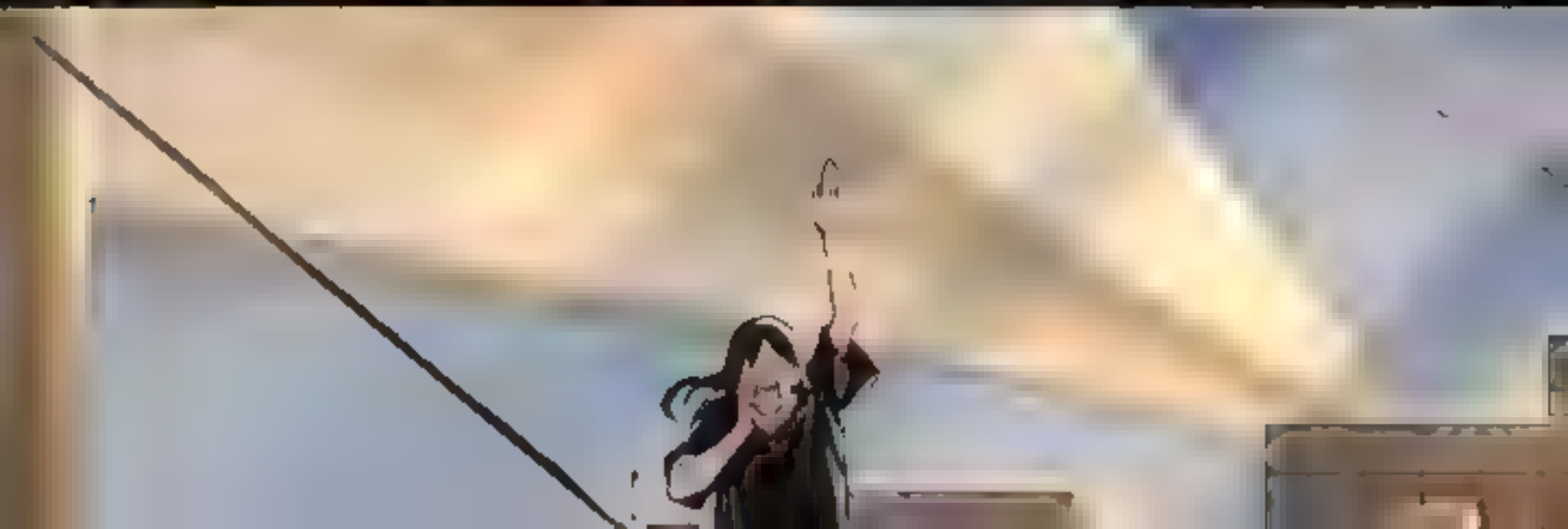
EVERYONE CAN  
REMEMBER YOU  
FOREVER!

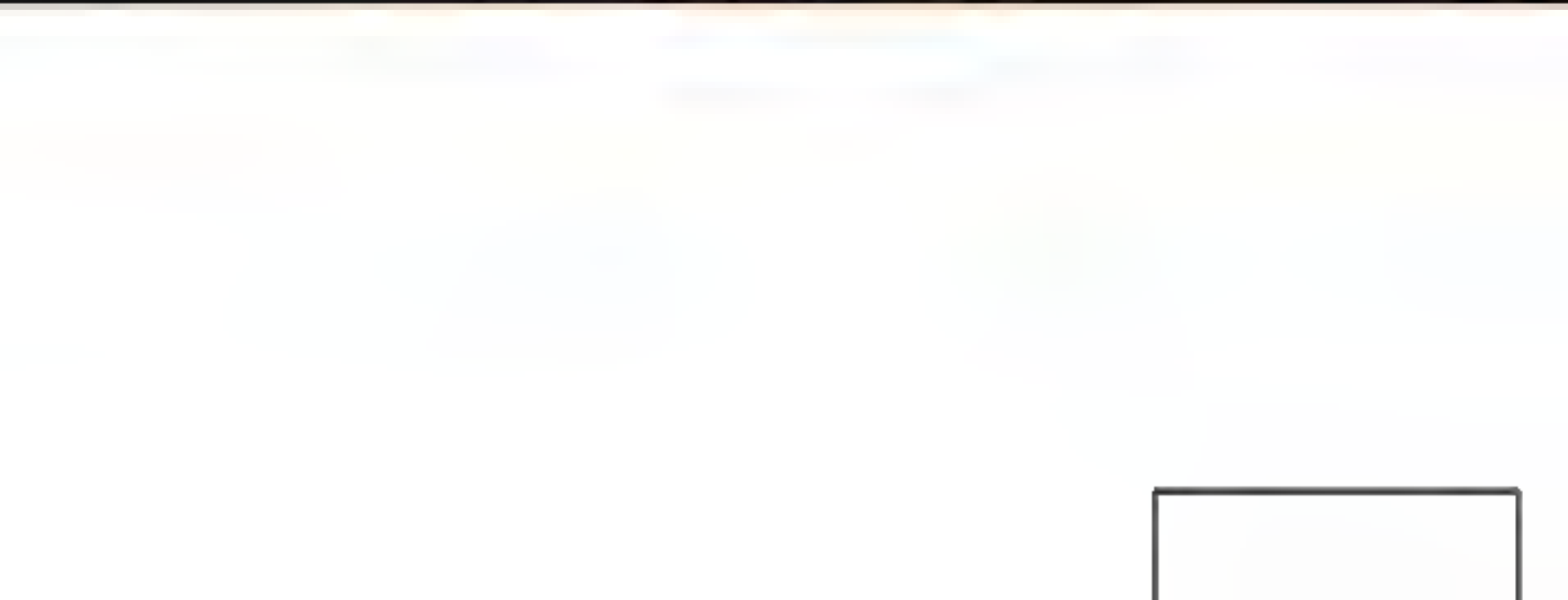
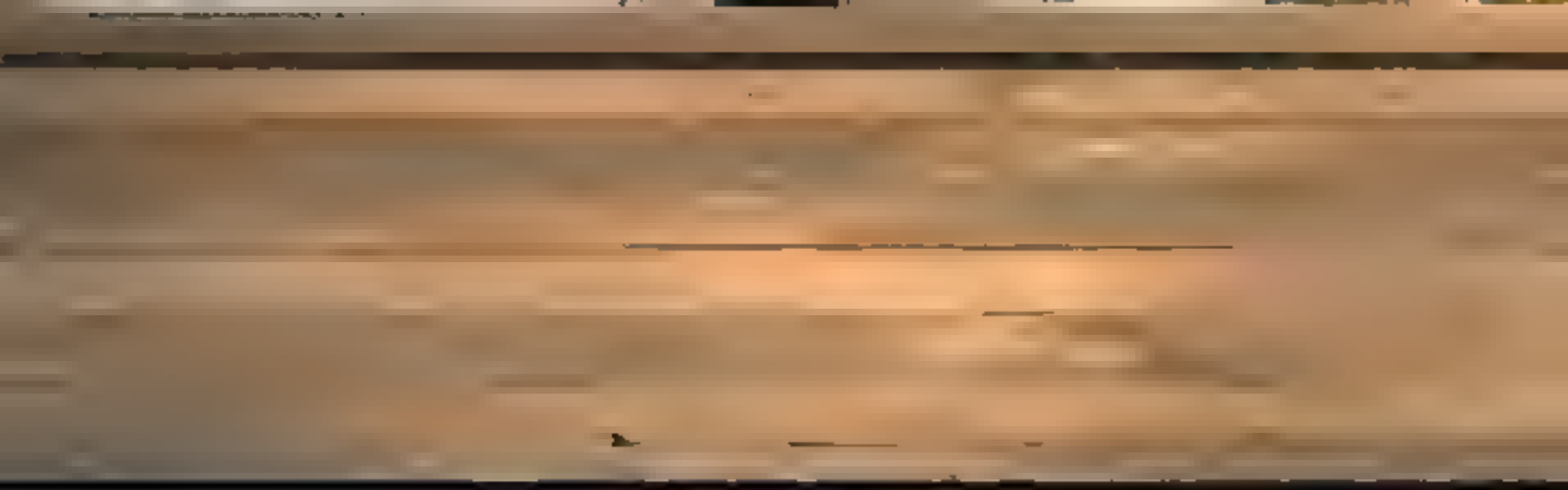
A character with long, flowing red hair and a white coat is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of yellow and grey. A large, empty white speech bubble is positioned in the lower-left foreground, and another speech bubble containing text is in the upper-right.

SO PLEASE...

GO WITH  
THE BLESSINGS  
OF THE GODS...

THUD

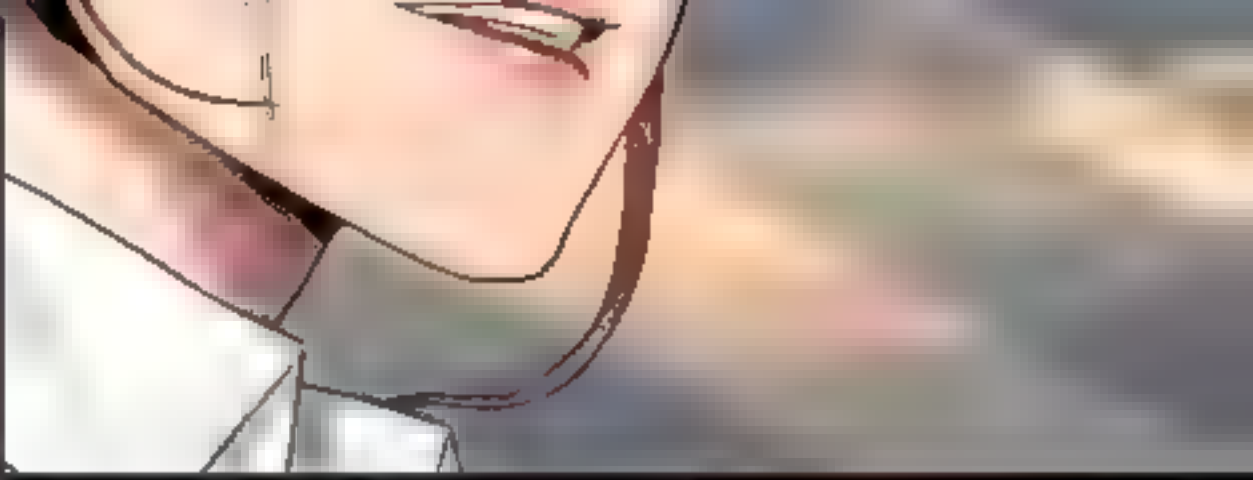




ALL I COULD  
HEAR...

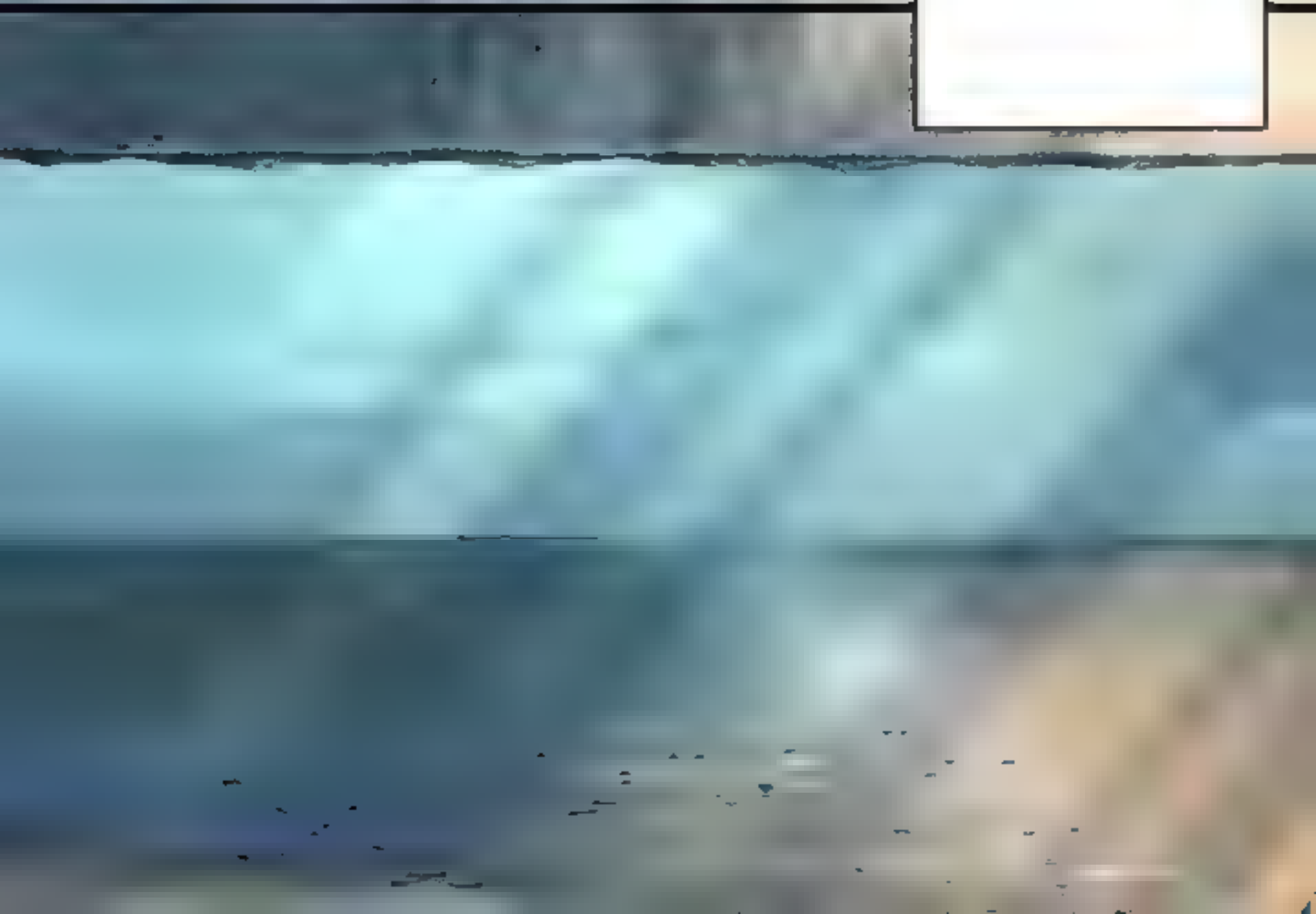







WAS THE  
SOUND OF  
THE WATER.

BUT I  
COULD  
FEEL IT.





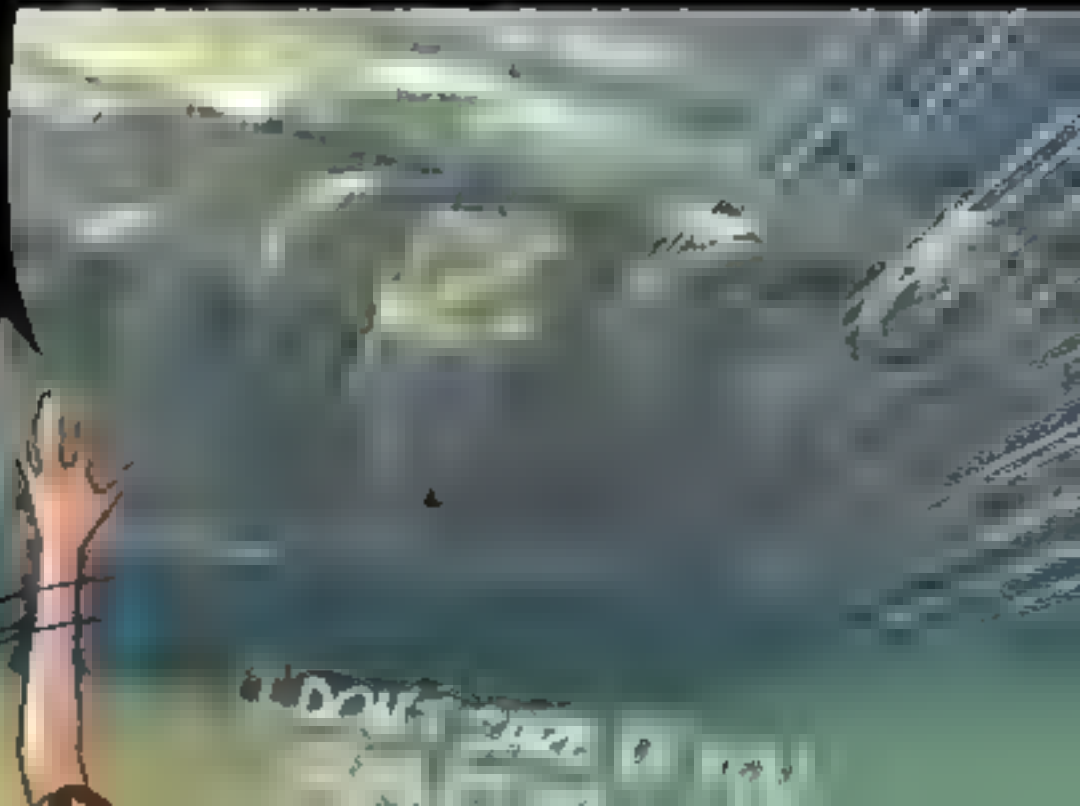
HE WAS  
LOOKING  
FORWARD...

TO MY NEW  
SONG TOO.



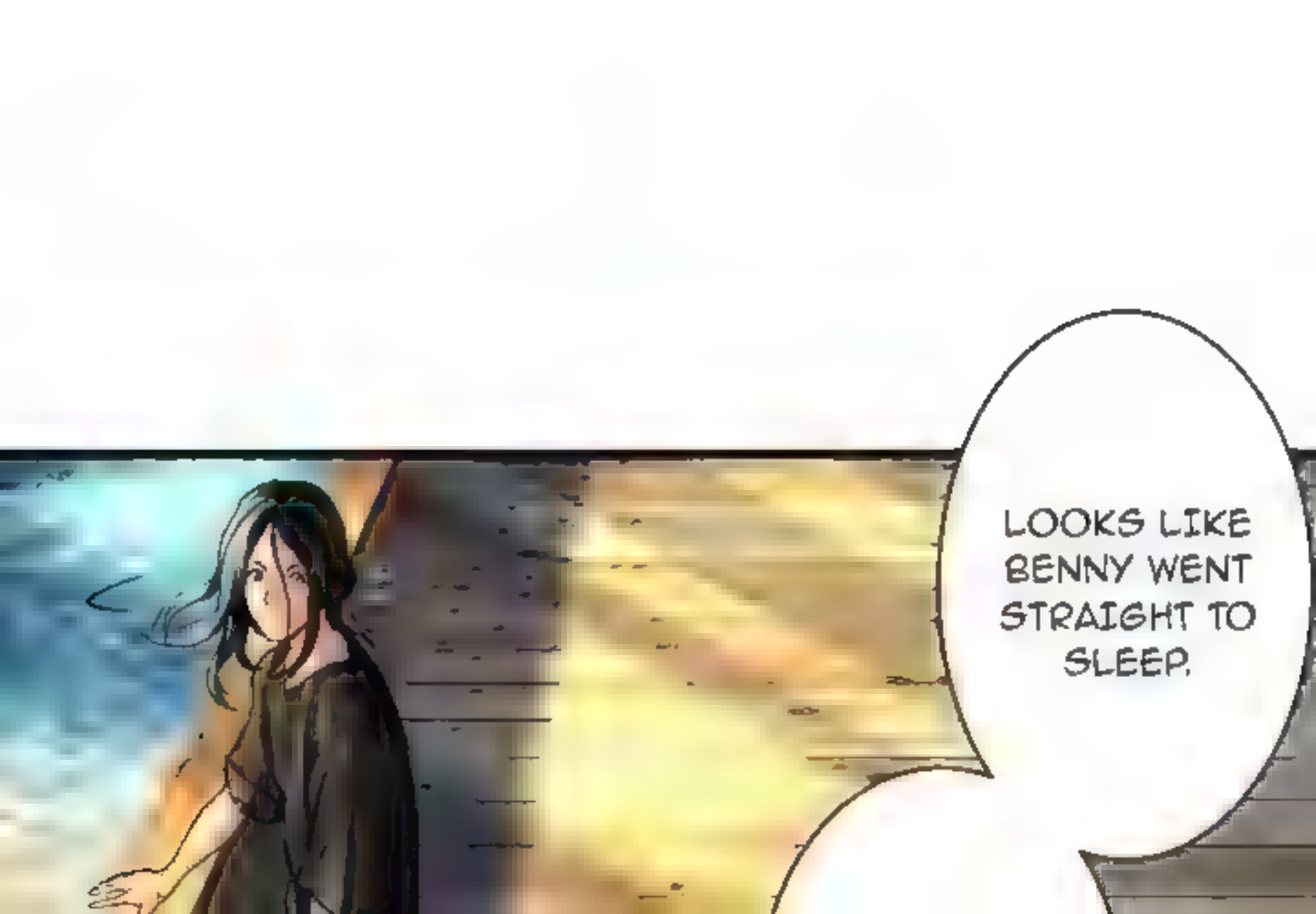


SORRY! I'M  
NOT INTERESTED  
IN SONGS SUNG  
BY GUYS!










LOOKS LIKE  
BENNY WENT  
STRAIGHT TO  
SLEEP.



I GUESS  
HE WAS UP  
ALL NIGHT...

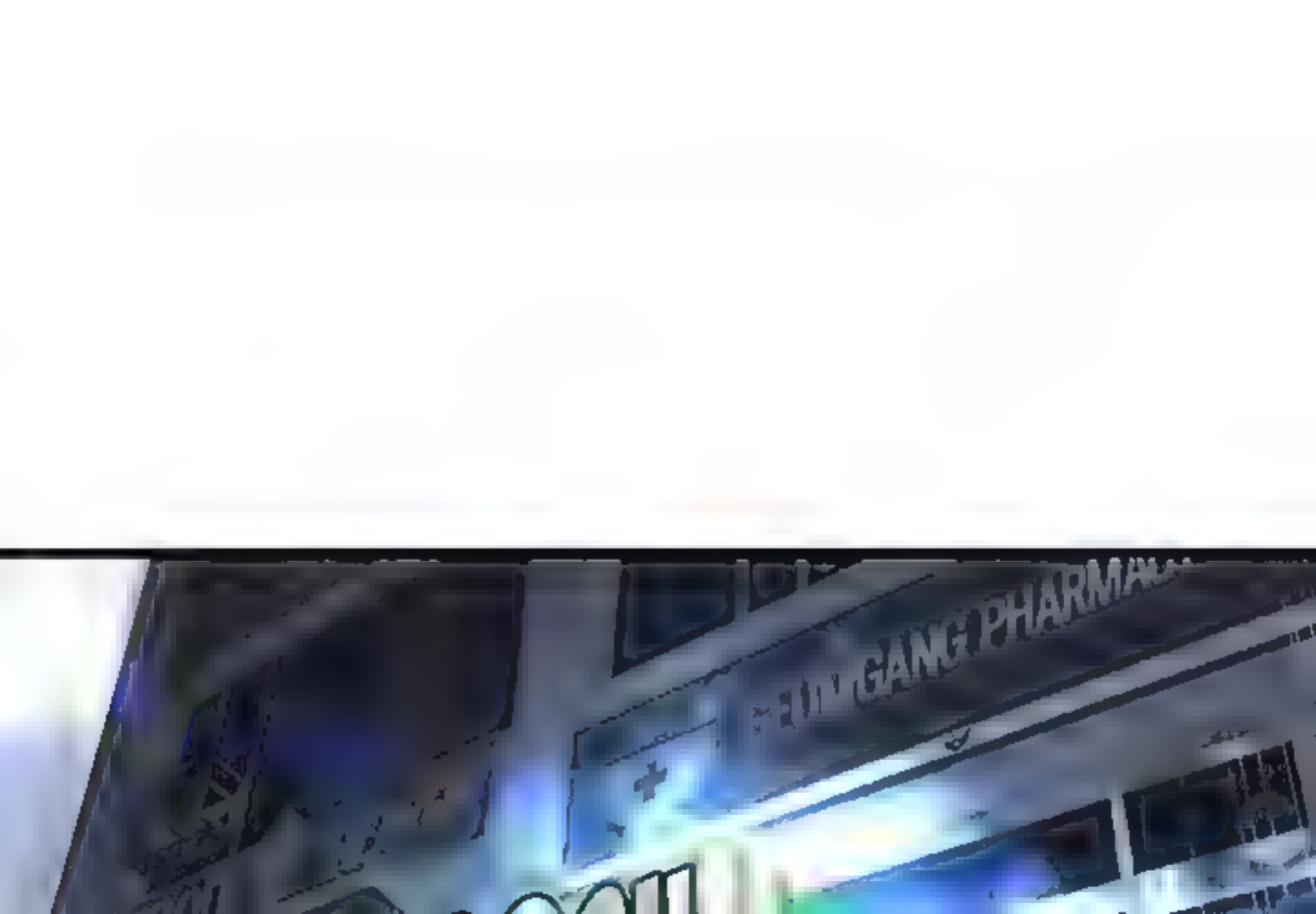
ALL  
NIGHT...

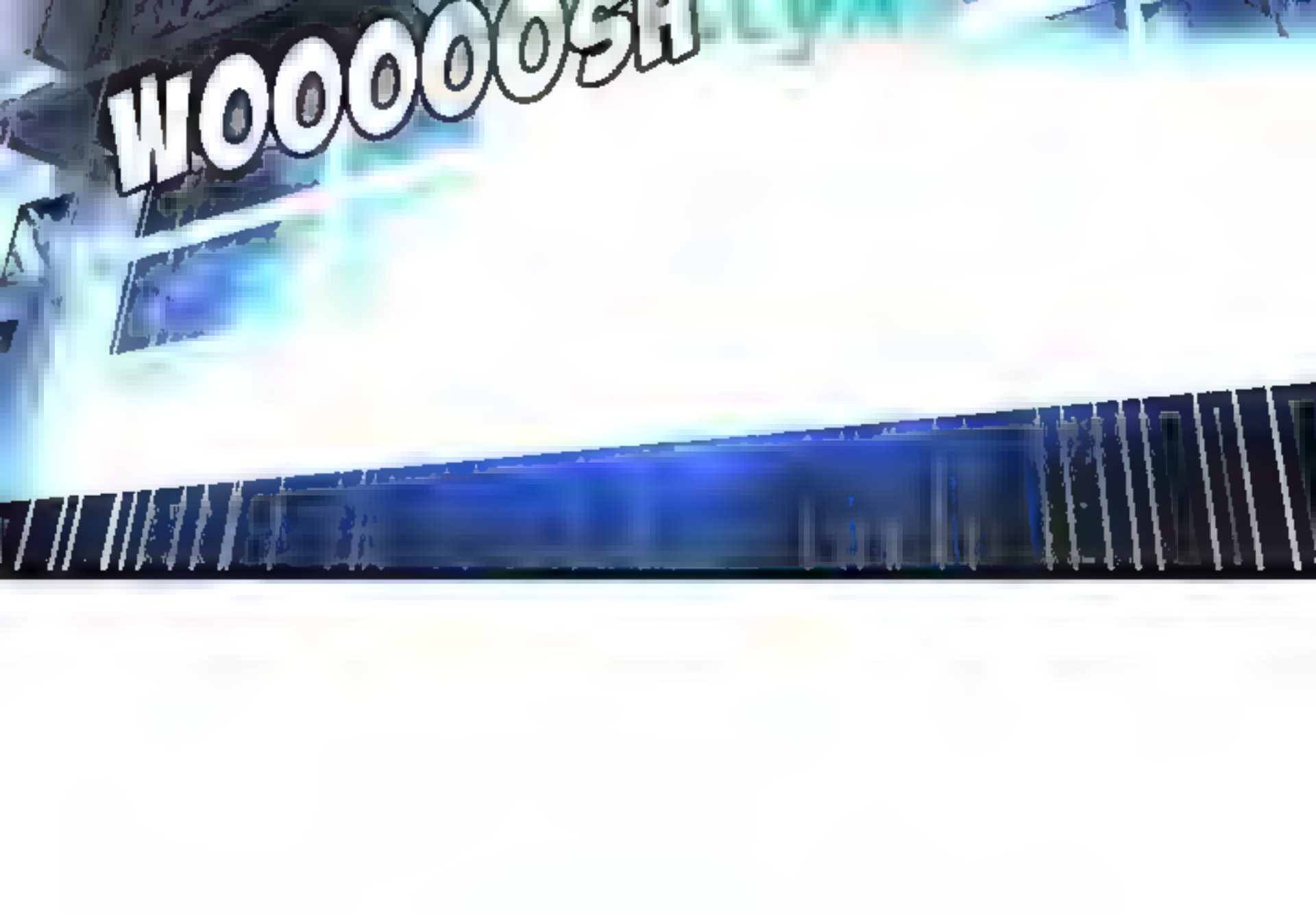




OH YEAH!  
AI!!









WOAH!



SUEP

OOH,  
LUCKY!

PHARMA

I GUESS  
I CAME BACK  
AT A TIME WHEN  
THERE AREN'T  
MANY PEOPLE.

I SHOULD  
GO HOME!

PHARMACY

**DASH**



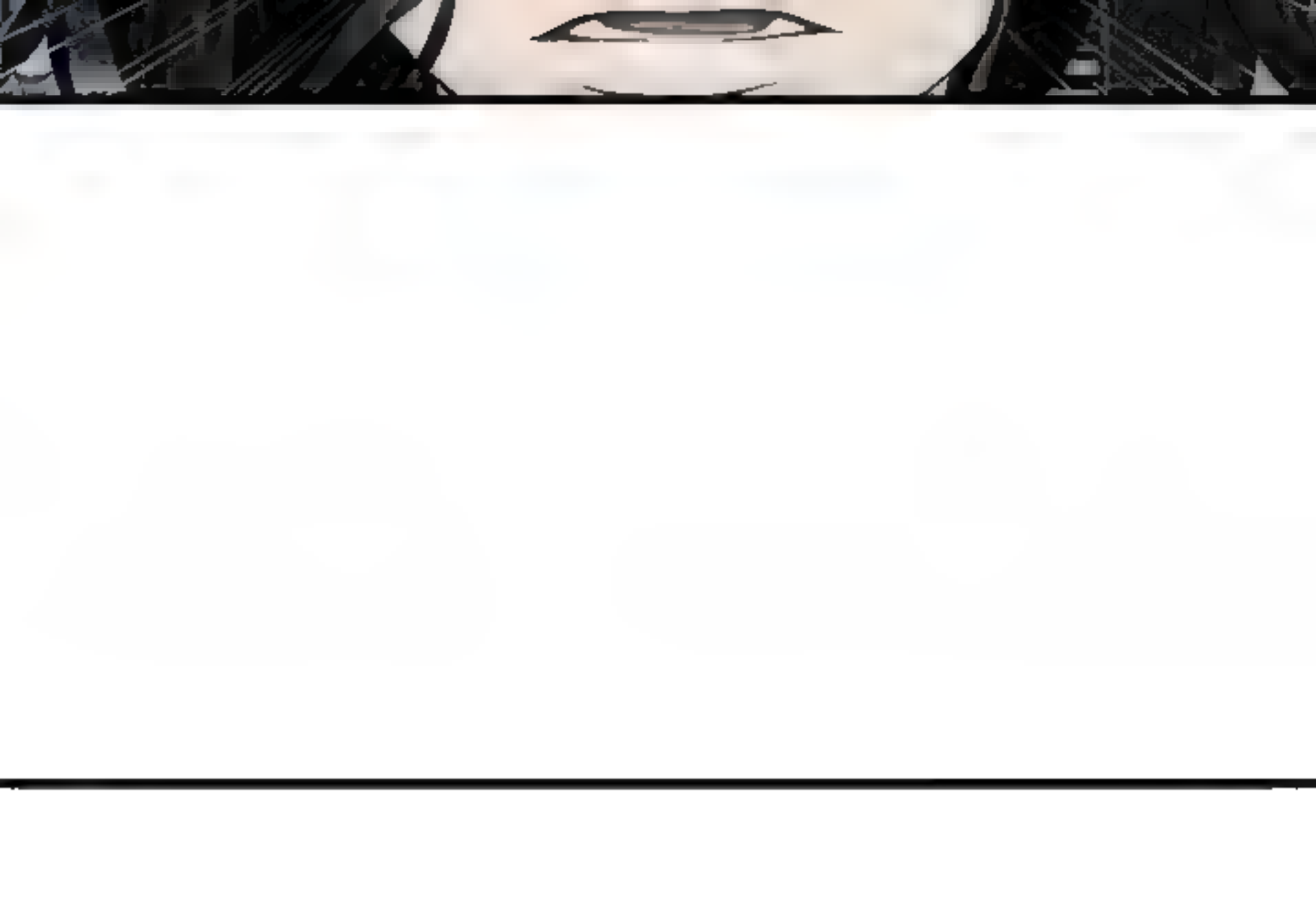


THIS  
RECOVERY  
SPEED IS  
AMAZING!



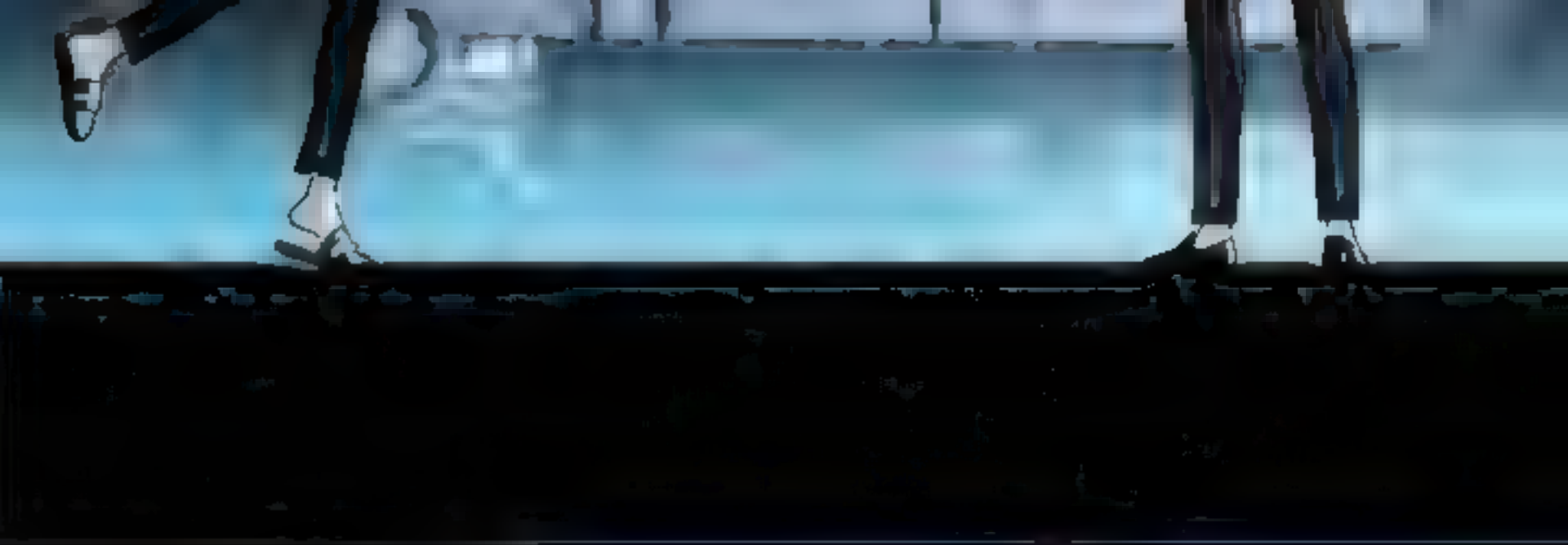


MY BODY'S  
COMPLETELY  
FINE...









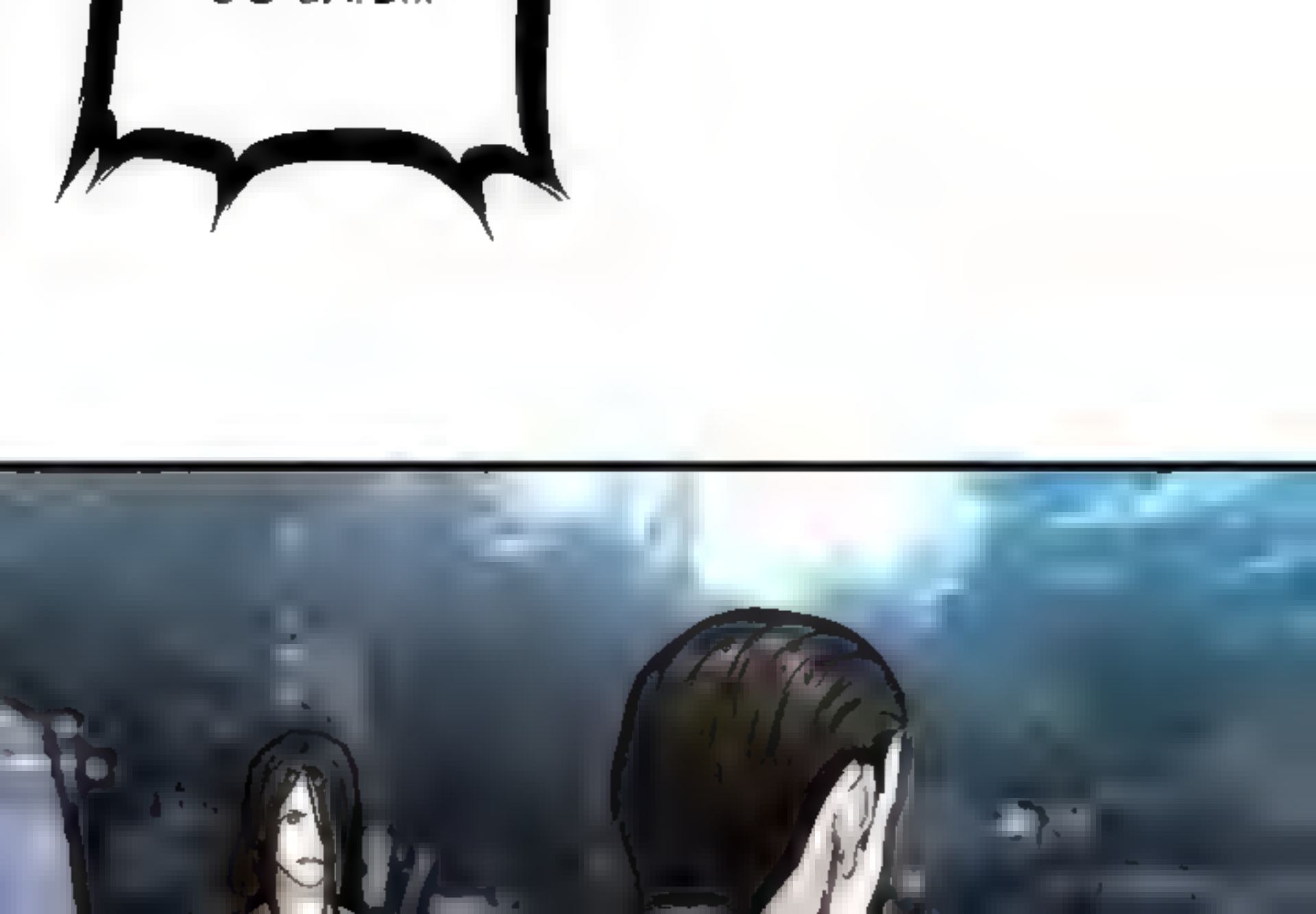


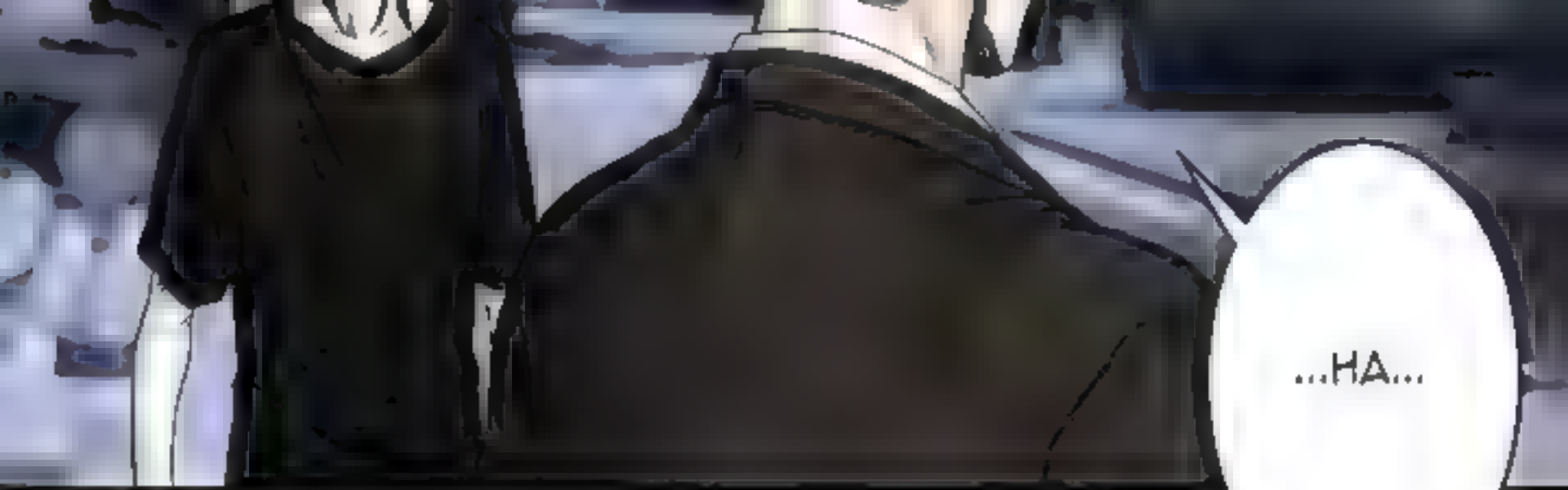
DAD.

WHAT DO YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
DOING?



WHAT THE  
HELL WERE YOU  
DOING OUT  
SO LATE...






...HA...

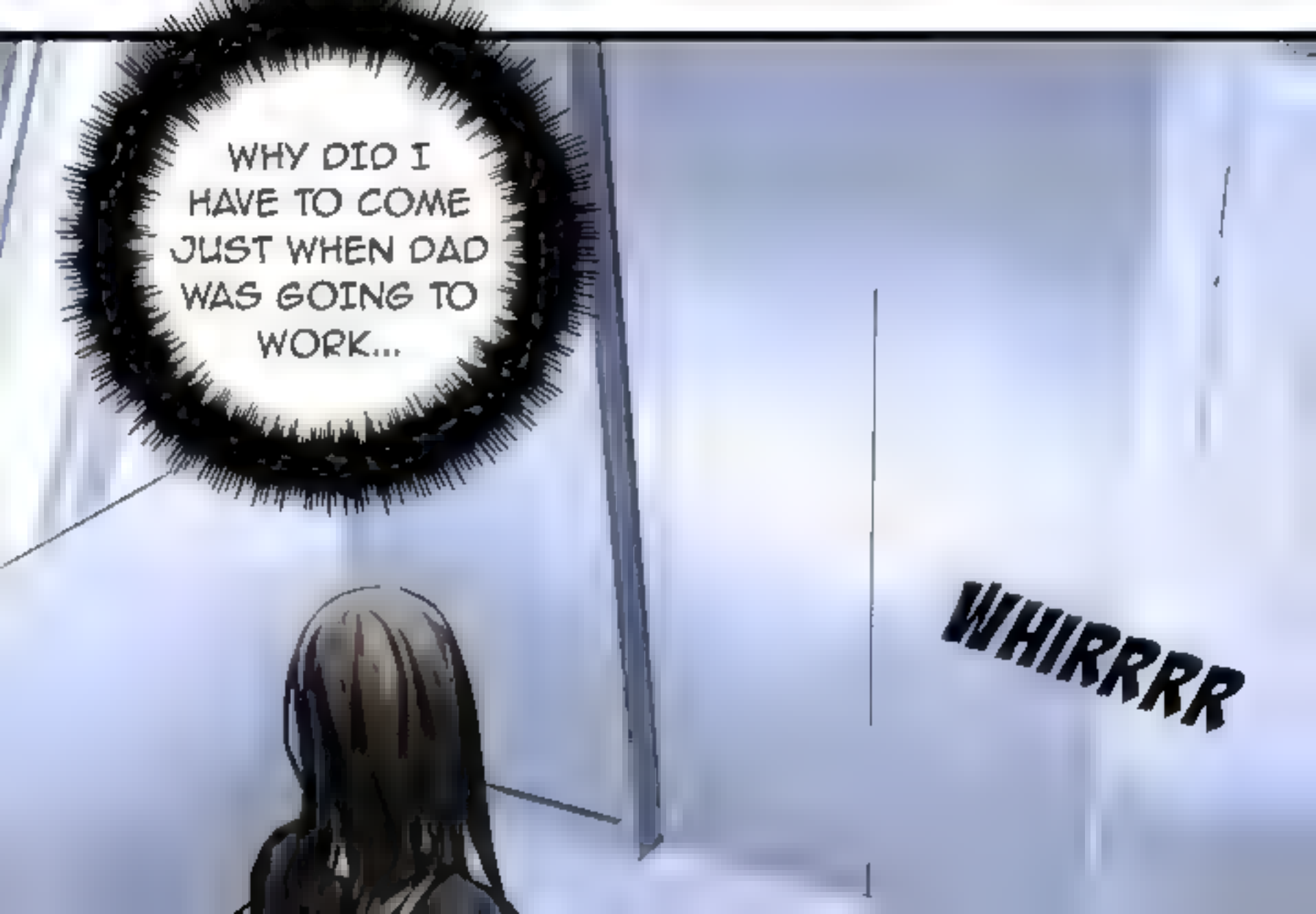
GO HOME  
RIGHT NOW!






AH...  
OKAY...





WHY DID I  
HAVE TO COME  
JUST WHEN DAD  
WAS GOING TO  
WORK...

**WHIRRRR**

A hand holding a handgun is shown in the upper left corner. A large, bright, circular speech bubble with a spiky, sunburst-like border is positioned in the center-right of the frame. The background is a light blue sky with faint, dark, angular shapes that look like parts of a building or a window frame.

AT LEAST  
HE DIDN'T GET  
TOO MAD AT ME.

DING

**DING**



**CLICK**



JINKYLING!





AH...



MOM.

WHERE  
WERE YOU  
ALL NIGHT?!

DO YOU  
HAVE ANY IDEA  
HOW WORRIED  
I WAS?!




A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers is standing in a doorway, looking out. The background is a bright, overexposed outdoor scene.

AH, WELL...


A woman with dark hair is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with a surprised expression. Her eyes are wide open, and her mouth is slightly agape. She is positioned in the lower center of the frame. In the upper right, a large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble contains the text "HEY MOM...". The background consists of a dark, paneled wall on the left and a lighter, blue-tinted area on the right, possibly a window or a different part of the wall.

HEY MOM...






THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I REALLY WANT  
TO DO.



SOMETHING  
YOU WANT  
TO DO?

A comic panel showing the lower legs and feet of two characters standing on a light-colored floor. The character on the left is wearing dark pants and shoes, while the character on the right is wearing a dark skirt and shoes. Two large speech bubbles are present: one on the left containing the text 'AH, IT'S NOTHING AMAZING...' and a larger one in the center containing the text 'W-WELL, IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME...'.

AH, IT'S  
NOTHING  
AMAZING...

W-WELL,  
IT'S IMPORTANT  
TO ME...

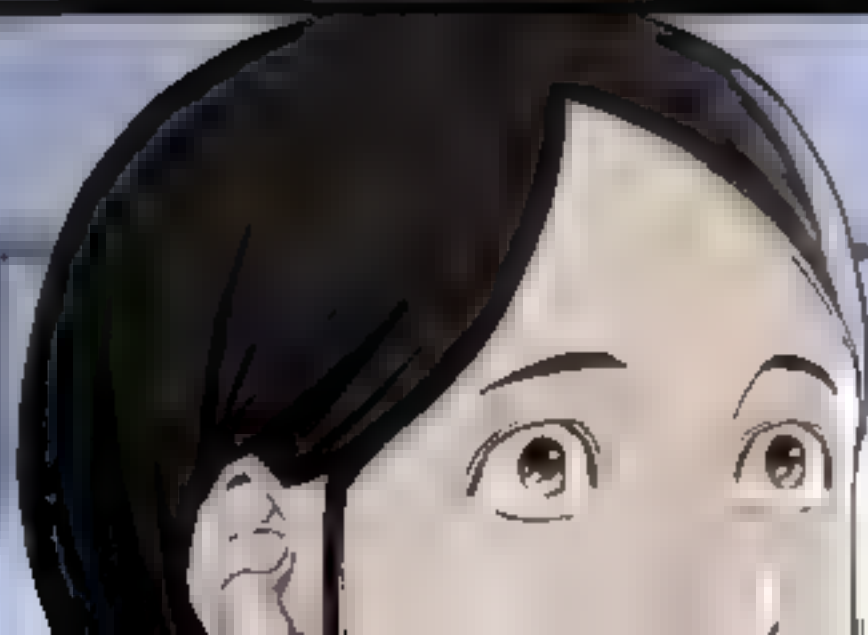


I-IT'S JUST...  
I'LL MAKE SURE  
I EAT WELL AND  
EVERYTHING...






SO DON'T  
WORRY TOO  
MUCH EVEN IF  
I'M NOT IN MY  
ROOM.



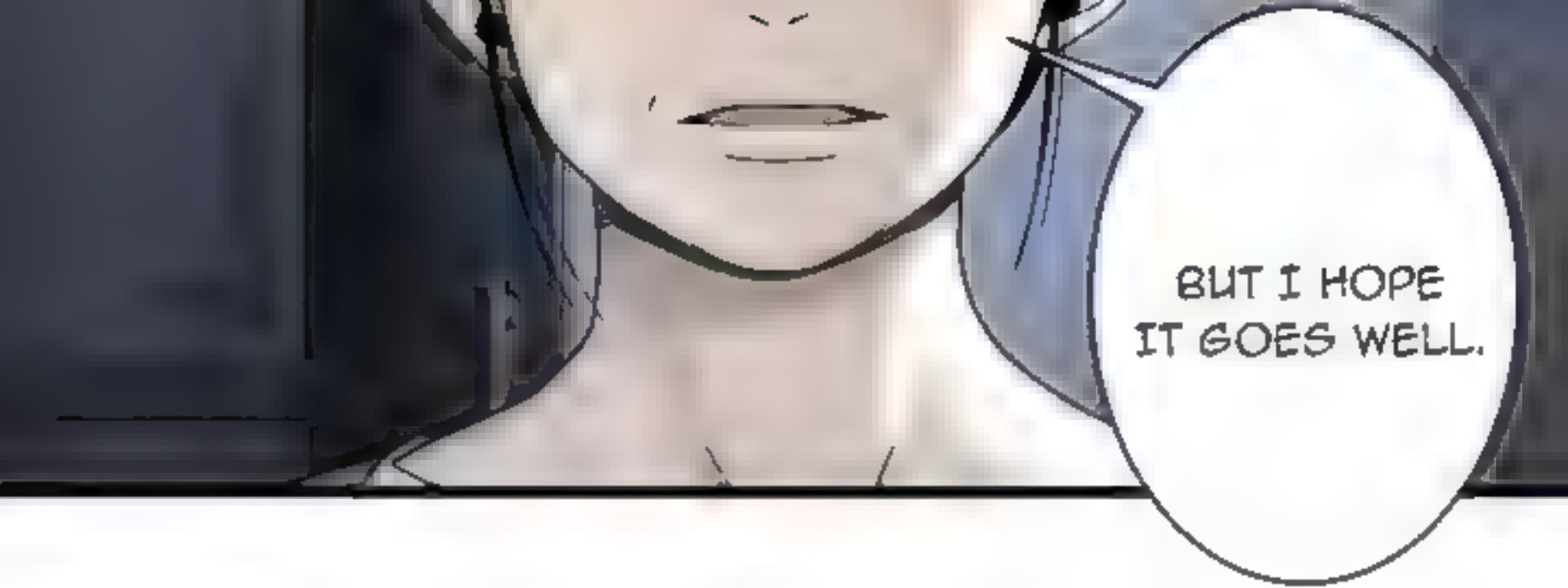




A comic panel featuring a close-up of a character's face with their eyes closed. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the character's head. In the background, the lower legs and feet of two other characters are visible, suggesting a public or social setting.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT IT IS YOU  
WANT TO DO...



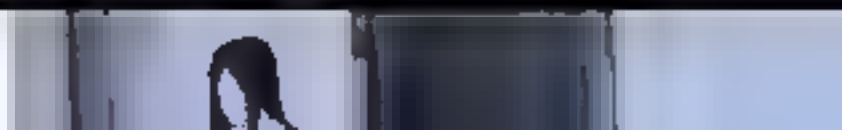
A close-up of a character's face, showing the mouth and chin. The character has dark hair and is wearing a dark collar. A speech bubble is positioned to the right of the face.


BUT I HOPE  
IT GOES WELL.





OH YEAH,  
I SHOULD CALL  
YOUR DAD.

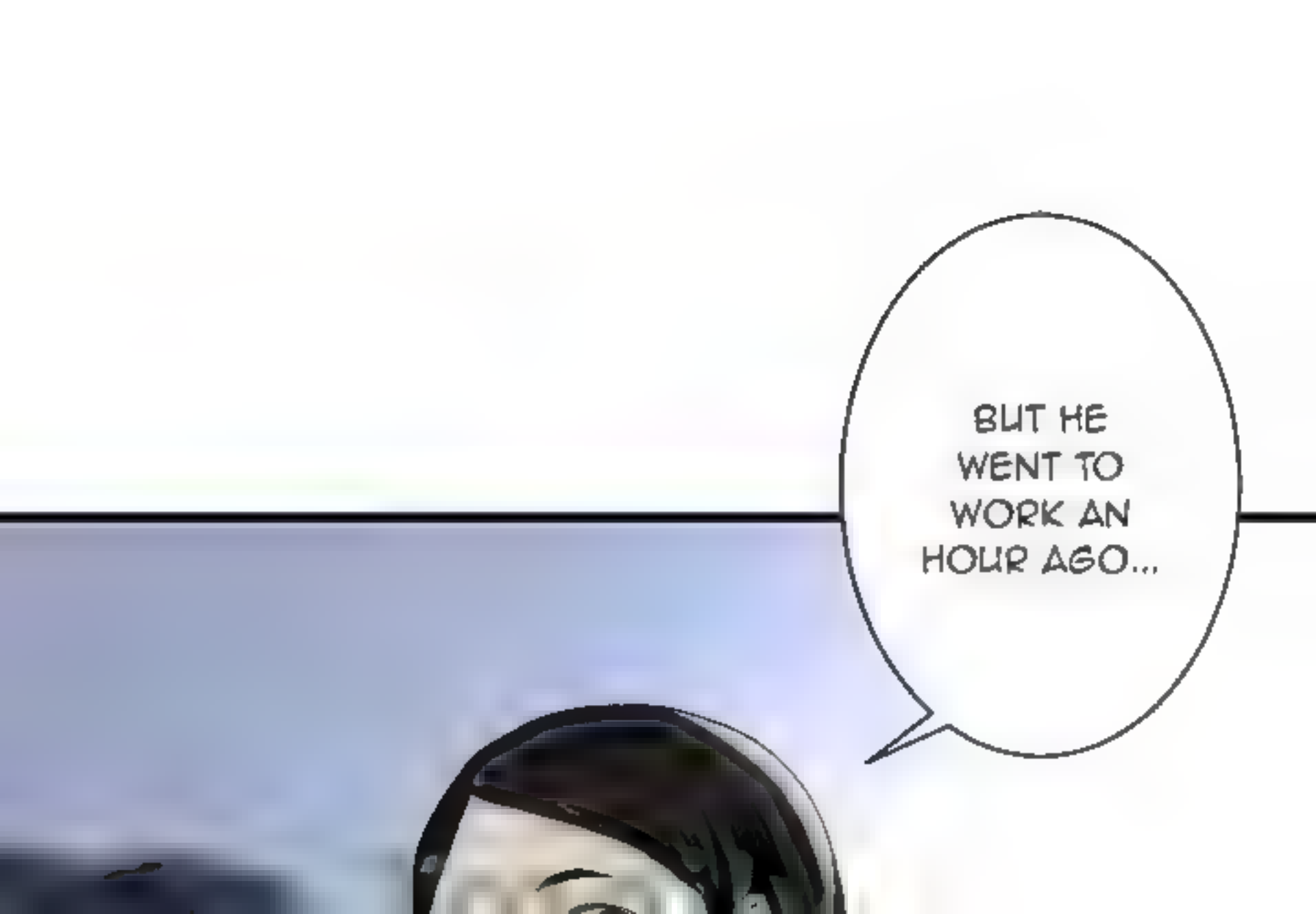




HE DIDN'T  
GET ANY SLEEP  
AT ALL BEFORE  
HE WENT TO  
WORK.

AH, I  
BUMPED  
INTO DAD  
OUTSIDE.





BUT HE  
WENT TO  
WORK AN  
HOUR AGO...



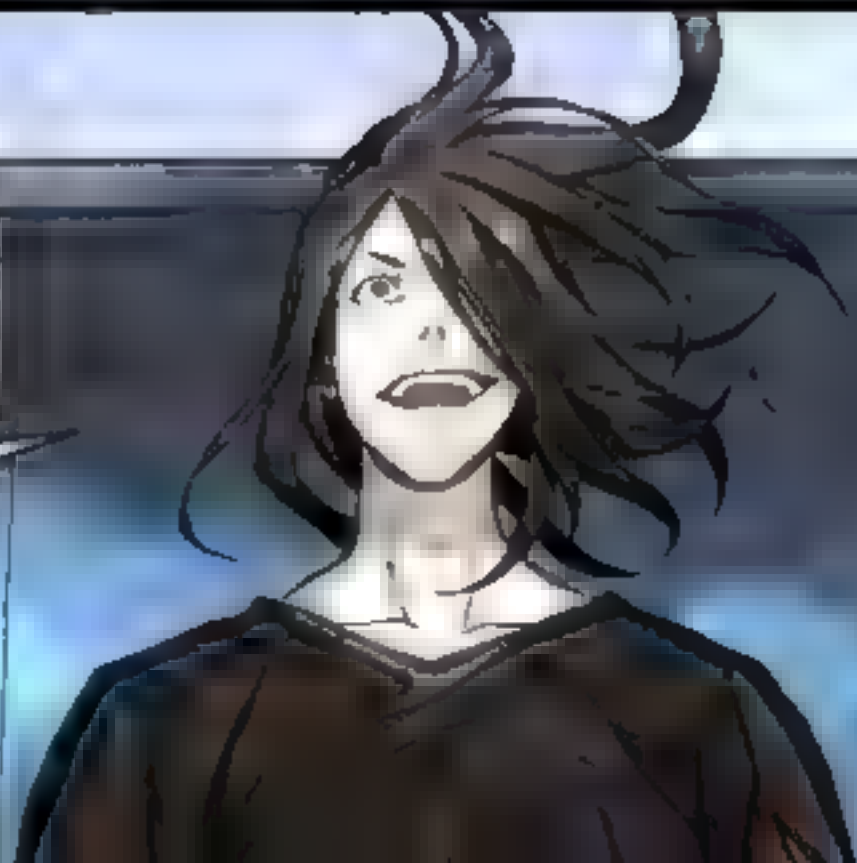









ALRIGHT.





I GUESS  
IT'S TIME FOR  
ME TO BE  
SUMMONED!



I WASN'T  
TOO GOOD AT  
THIS UNTIL NOW...



NO, MAYBE  
I'M STILL NOT  
GOOD AT  
THIS.

BUT AT  
THE VERY  
LEAST...

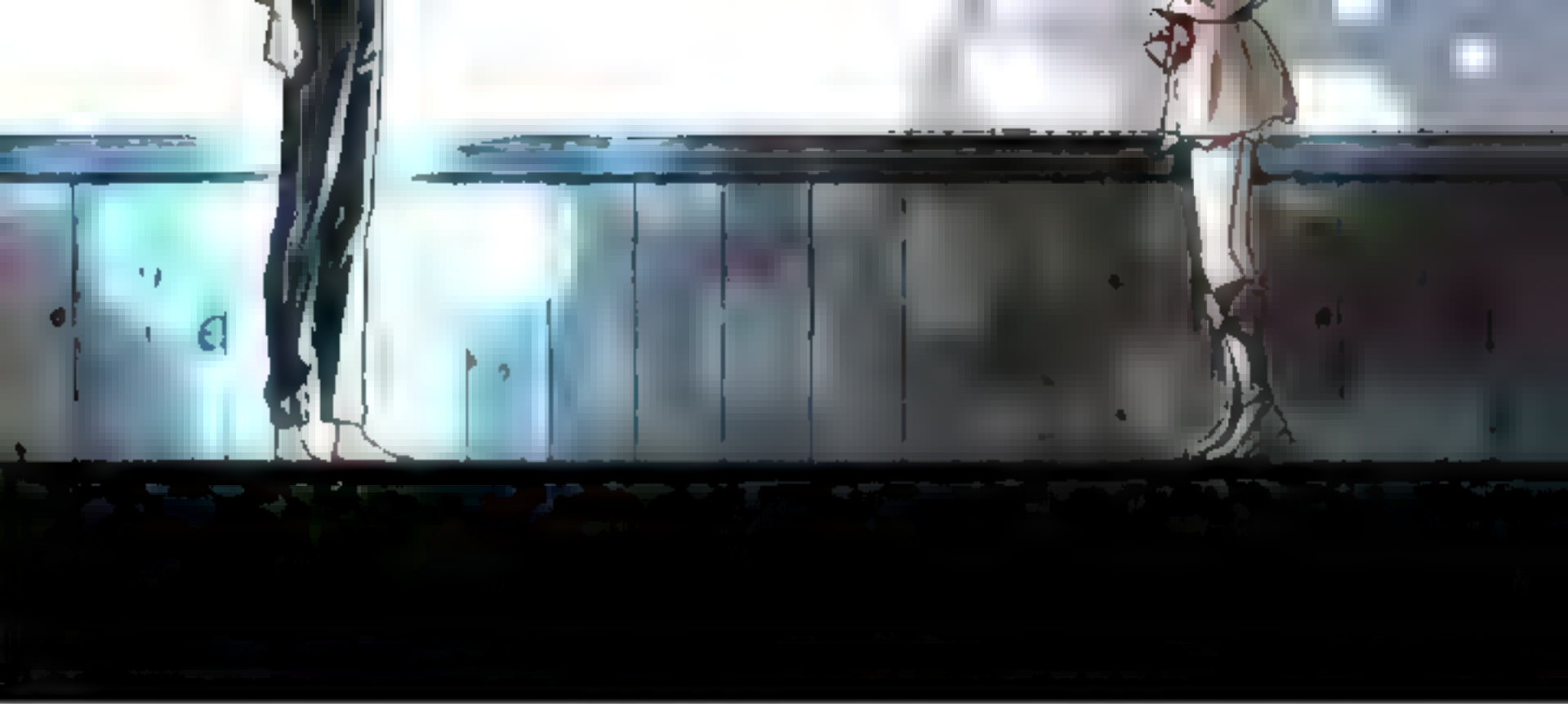




FROM NOW  
ON...









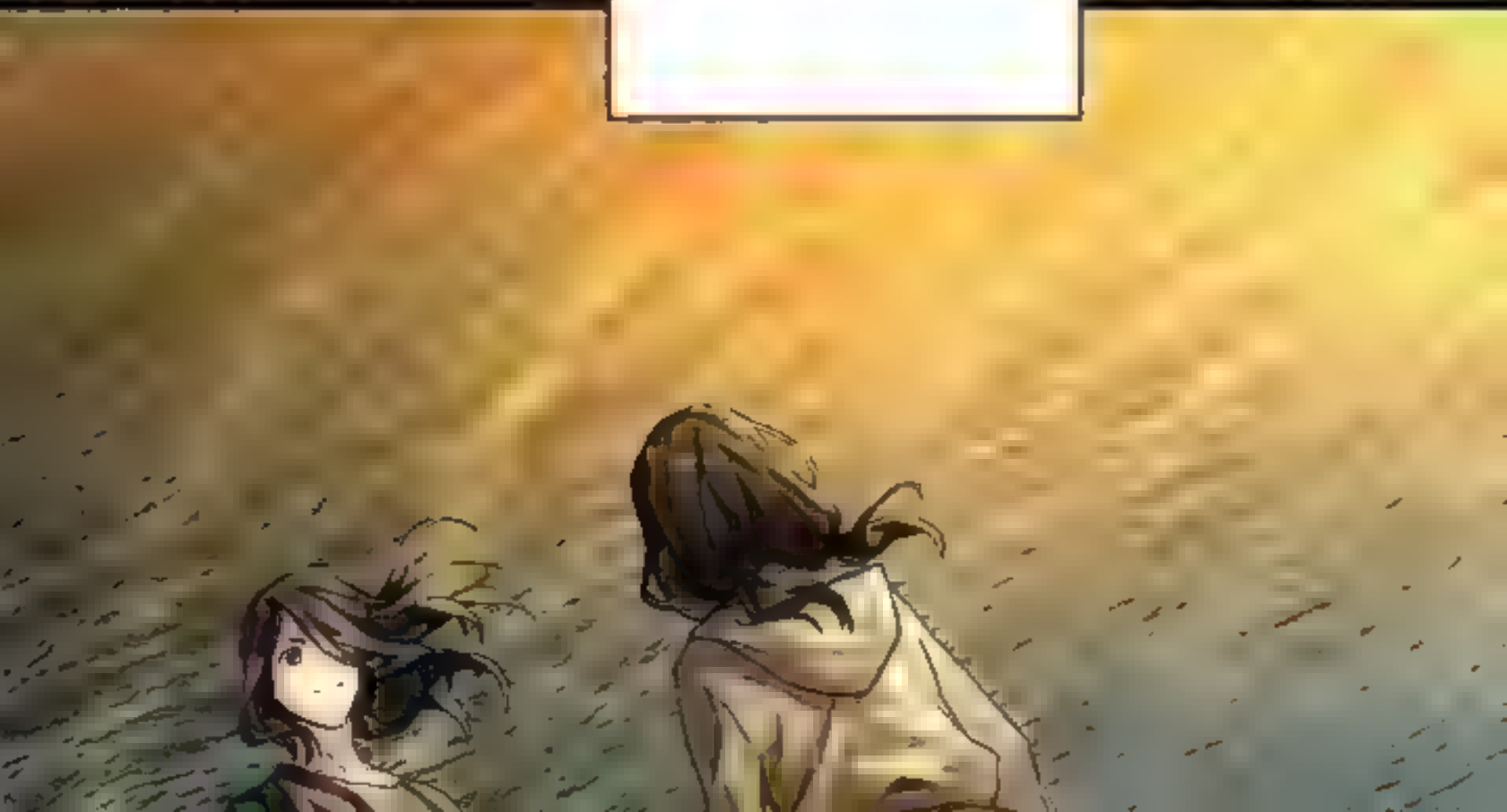




I WON'T...

PUT HER IN

...  
DANGER EVER  
AGAIN!













HER SUMMON

